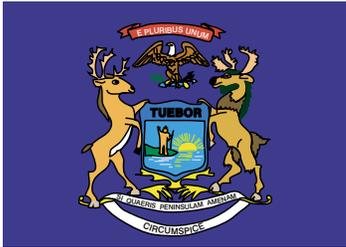


State Flag & Coat of Arms

The present flag—Michigan's third since becoming a state in 1837—was adopted in 1911.



The state's first flag featured a portrait of Michigan's first governor, Stevens T. Mason, on one side. On the

other side was the state coat of arms and "a soldier and a lady." In 1865, the state flag changed to display the state coat of arms on one side and the United States coat of arms on the other side. Today's Michigan flag is a field of blue with the state coat of arms at its center.

At the top of the coat of arms, also adopted in 1911, is an eagle holding an olive branch and arrows. An elk and a moose support a shield displaying a man standing on a grassy peninsula. The following mottos appear on the coat of arms: *E Pluribus Unum* (From Many, One), *Tuebor* (I Will Defend) and *Si Quaeris Peninsulam Amoenam Circumspice* (If You Seek a Pleasant Peninsula, Look About You).

Michigan's State Symbols is published by *Michigan History* magazine, which is a part of the Michigan Historical Center, Michigan Department of History, Arts and Libraries. Dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in Michigan, the Department of History Arts and Libraries also includes the Mackinac Island State Park Commission, the Library of Michigan, the Michigan Film Office and the Michigan Council of Arts and Cultural Affairs.

Artwork by Carolyn Damstra
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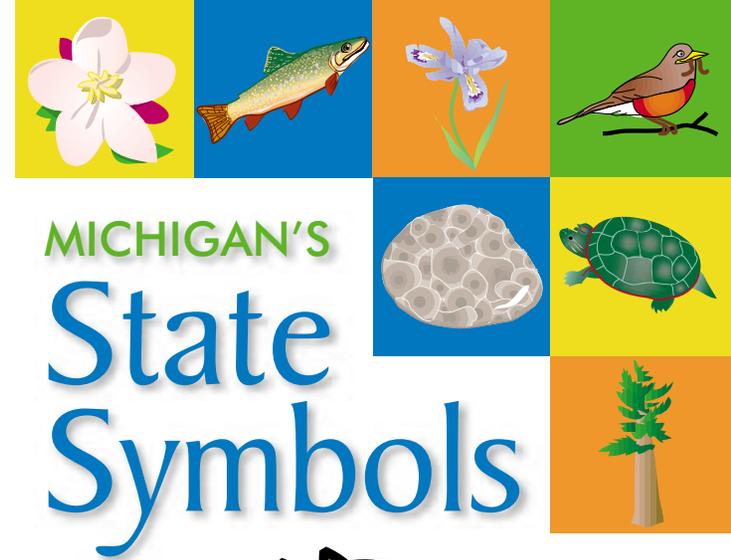
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Do you call yourself a Michigander or a Michiganian? Both words mean you are from Michigan and proud of it. You can also be proud of the official state symbols that represent the Great Lakes State in a colorful and special way.

State Flower

In 1897, the **APPLE BLOSSOM** (*Pyrus coronaria*) was designated the state flower. Sponsors noted it was “one of the most fragrant and beautiful flowered species of apple.” It is native to the state.



State Bird

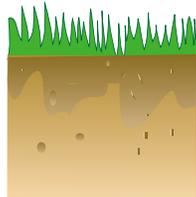
In 1931, the **AMERICAN ROBIN** (*Turdus migratorius*) was chosen the state bird.



It had been favored by the Michigan Audubon Society. Sponsors called the robin “the best-known and best-loved of all the birds in the state of Michigan.”

State Soil

In 1990, **KALKASKA SAND** was chosen as the state soil. First identified as a soil type in 1927, Kalkaska sand ranges in color from black to yellowish brown. It is one of more than 500 soils found in the state. Unique to Michigan, Kalkaska sand covers nearly a million acres in 29 Upper and Lower Peninsula counties.



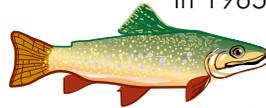
State Stone

In 1965, the **PETOSKEY STONE** (*Hexagonaria pericarnata*) was adopted as the state stone. The Petoskey stone is fossilized coral that existed in the northern Lower Peninsula about 350 million years ago.



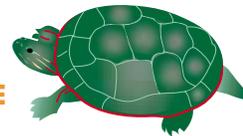
State Fish

In 1965, the **TROUT** was designated as the state fish. In 1988, the Michigan legislature specified the **BROOK TROUT** (*Salvelinus fontinalis*) as the state fish. The brook trout is native to Michigan and found throughout the state.



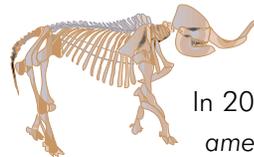
State Reptile

In 1995, the **PAINTED TURTLE** (*Chysemys picta*) was chosen as the state reptile after a group of Niles fifth graders discovered that Michigan did not have a state reptile.



State Fossil

In 2002, the **MASTODON** (*Mammuth americanum*) became the state fossil. Fossils of the prehistoric mammal have been found in more than 250 locations in the state.



State Tree

In 1955, the towering **WHITE PINE** (*Pinus strobus*) was designated the state tree. It was chosen as a symbol of one of Michigan’s greatest industries. From 1870 to the early 1900s, Michigan led the nation in lumber production.



State Gem

In 1972, **CHLORASTROLITE** (literally “green star stone”) was adopted as the state gem. Known as the Isle Royale greenstone, Chlorastrolite ranges in color from yellow-green to almost black. It is primarily found in the Upper Peninsula.



State Wildflower

In 1998, the **DWARF LAKE IRIS** (*Iris lacustris*) was designated as the state wildflower. Native to the state, the endangered flower grows along the northern shorelines of Lakes Michigan and Huron.



State Game Mammal

In 1997, the **WHITE-TAILED DEER** (*Odocoileus virginianus*) was designated the state game mammal after the successful lobbying efforts of a group of Zeeland fourth graders. Found in every Michigan county, the white-tailed deer is an important natural and economic resource.

